principle both in Berlin and Vienna. But it required eighteen months of discussion and a visit to Rome by the German Foreign Minister in January, 1912, before the fifth treaty of the Triple Alliance was signed on December 5, 1912. Italy's new position, with a foot in each of the rival European camps, suited her very well.

Soon after the final abandonment of the Anglo-German naval and neutrality negotiations in the spring of 1912, following the unsuccessful Haldane Mission to Berlin, the centre of political interest shifted to Eastern Europe. Here Kiderlen's knowledge and authority were unrivalled, and with the outbreak of the Balkan war in October, 1912, he came into his own again. In this last phase of his career he, like AehrenthaJ after the Bosnian escapade, won back a substantial portion of the influence he had forfeited at Agadir. His determination to localize the conflict was beyond all doubt. The firebrand of 1911 had developed into a pillar of European peace. In co-operating with Grey for this supreme purpose he contributed to an Anglo-German *detente.,* and in one of his last letters he wrote that' the English were so tame that they fed out of his hand.

In the Balkan wars, as in the Tripoli conflict, Germany left initiatives to other Powers. It was a matter of indifference to him, remarked Kiderlen to the British Ambassador, which side won. Victory for Turkey, which he expected, would be easier to deal with, for she knew that she would not be allowed an extension of territory. If, on the other hand, her enemies triumphed, the status quo could not be maintained. In any case, he hoped that the Great Powers, especially England, Germany and France as the least interested parties, would keep in close touch. When the Allies carried everything

before them, he, like the Kaiser, realized that they must have their reward. He was relieved to find Austria peacefully inclined and quite ready for a larger Servia, so long as she did not attempt to secure a port on the Adriatic. On this latter point he supported his allies, and informed the Serbs of his attitude. He warmly welcomed the plan of an informal conference of Ambassadors, and expressed a hope that it might be held in London. Wanting nothing for herself in the Balkans, Germany, like England, worked honestly for conciliation and compromise. The most dangerous phases of the Balkan conflict occurred after his death.

Kiderlen died of a stroke on December 30, 1912, in his